

MR. BENT, ROOM 200: 6TH GRADE EARTH SCIENCE



THINGS YOU'LL NEED

- 1. THE HOMEWORK/CLASSWORK NOTEBOOK:** I am requiring that you have a homework/class work notebook. Occasionally we may create diagrams, write lab reports, write papers, define words, write lists, construct graphs, complete homework, etc. in this book.
- 2. THE BINDER:** You must have a science binder to put your materials in. These materials include most notes, diagrams, and tests that we take for each unit. At the end of each unit, we will usually clean out the binders. I may periodically check these binders to make sure your work is getting done. I do not care what size this binder is (or how many subjects you hold in it).
- 3. BOOK(S):** We will use an Earth Science **textbook** for certain class work assignments during science class, but **no book will be sent home**. We will occasionally use various science encyclopedias and science-based Scholastic magazines to work on non-fiction reading skills during science class.
- 4. WRITING UTENSILS:** You may use a **pen or a pencil** in science class. I suggest using a pencil, for obvious reasons. Also, different colored pens and/or **highlighters** can be very helpful, particularly when creating and labeling diagrams.



HOMEWORK

Homework **will NOT be given OFTEN**. I will give homework if I feel that we need to extend our learning from class in some way. This may mean reading an article, doing a bit of writing, answering a question that came up in class, completing vocabulary cards, drawing a diagram, interviewing someone, and/or observing something outdoors.

Unless otherwise stated, all **homework must be completed in your science notebook**. Homework SHOULD NOT be completed on loose paper.

Whatever homework I do give **will NOT count towards your LETTER grade**, but it **WILL count towards your EFFORT grade**. Please note, that if you do not complete all of your homework during a unit, you **WILL NOT** be allowed to re-take or earn back points should you do poorly on a unit test (I will be handing out the re-take/make-up test policy after the first test is given).

(homework continued)

***Parents:** I will also periodically ask my students to review their notes. I will often do this if I feel a particular unit is really heavy with difficult vocabulary. Sometimes a "pop quiz" may be coming as well. I feel that it is very good practice for students to get in the habit of reviewing their notes about twice each week, regardless of whether or not they are asked. I know this is a lot to ask a 6th grader, but there are many students that will take the initiative and begin to get into this habit. We'll see how it goes, but you may see a homework assignment posted as "review your notes."

Also, if you or your child would like to supplement my homework assignments with additional (more "conventional") homework, please let me know and I will gladly provide it to you/them. If you are concerned in any way about my homework policy, I would be happy to talk to you about it any time, but please be assured that my homework policy has no effect on the content of the curriculum or on the quality of your child's 6th grade science experience.


GRADED STUFF

Your letter grade is based on your ability to prove that you are proficient in the Earth & Space learning standards that have been set forth by the Massachusetts Department of Education. This proof is obtained by through a combination of traditional paper and pencil tests and quizzes as well as writing assignments, lab activities, graph/chart/diagram construction, etc.

1. Class work: Class work will count for **20%** of your **letter** grade. Class work includes things like group work, certain writing pieces, worksheets, graphs, charts, diagrams, etc. Please note that if you do not complete all class work with a check, you will not be eligible to try to earn points back on your unit test. I fully expect that everyone in my class will take their work seriously, and will turn in quality work. If not, your grade will suffer.

Your class work will be graded as follows:

0 : Not done (0%).

 -: The class work is partially completed or completed, but not satisfactorily (50%)

 : The class work is completed as expected (100%)

2. Tests, Quizzes, Major Papers, etc.: Quizzes, certain papers, lab-related work, diagrams, etc. will count for **80%** of your *letter* grade. **Tests will be weighted more heavily (they are counted twice, while most other assessments are counted once).**

Once you have completed a unit test, you may attempt to **earn back points** on the test if you are not satisfied with your grade. You can only do this **if** you show me that you have demonstrated an "honest effort" by showing me the completion of **all** of the notes, binder pages, handouts, homework, and class work for the unit in question. I will discuss this in more detail during the first unit.

After School Help

* My **planned** after school help day this year will be _____. I ask that if you would like to stay after for extra help that you come to me and let me know that you are interested in staying after.

Communication

There are many ways to communicate with me directly. Email is much more likely to be responded to than a call on the voicemail line. **Please use email if possible.** I update the website as often as possible (usually every day), so it is a good source of information to review what we are covering in class. I do try to post homework due dates on the website calendar, but homework is really not planned far in advance (it is as necessary), so **the homework hotline is the most important source for daily, accurate homework information.** It is updated each day between 2:40 and 3:00.

Website: <http://www.amesburyma.gov/webpages/dbent/>

Email: bentd@amesburyma.gov

Homework Hotline: 978-388-0515, Extension 7230

Voicemail: 978-388-0515, Extension 7014

CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE

- If you pay attention are respectful to me, your classmates, and yourself, you will receive the positive attention that you deserve. Simply put, I do not wake up in the morning, hoping to come into school, yell at people, and have a bad day. In my perfect teacher-world, all of you (my students) are sitting in class listening, discussing topics when appropriate, having positive interactions with me and each other, etc. Unfortunately, this is not always the case.
- ✧ In order to make things clearer for you, I've decided to use a type of "warning" system for discipline. If you fail to follow the class rules regarding talking, listening, preparation etc., you will earn a **warning**. If you earn **3 warnings in a 5 day period**, you will receive a detention (**1/2 to 1 hour**) and I will call home immediately to notify parents/guardians of the nature of the offense. I will let you know how many warnings you have each time you earn one, so you will know where you stand with me during any given week.
- ✧ **Warnings are most often given for talking repeatedly after being asked to stop.** Warnings may also be given for **any** school rule violation (gum, phone, etc.), repeatedly leaving a mess behind, touching things that do not belong to you, being disrespectful, etc.
- ✧ When a new week is started on a Monday, all warnings from the previous week are cleared. However, if you get **2 warnings for 3 consecutive weeks**, (meaning they consistently are having a problem following class rules), you will automatically receive the aforementioned detention and phone call. If you get a detention from having 3 or more warnings for several consecutive weeks, you will be paying a visit to the Assistant Principal to discuss your problem(s).
- ✧ I have a ticket-based reward system where I give out tickets for positive behavior (above and beyond what is expected), and for exceptional performances/efforts on graded work. At the end of a certain time period, I draw a ticket from the jar and give out a prize to the person whose ticket(s) I selected. **Realize that if you have been given a warning during the period for which I am drawing a prize, you will not get any prize if I draw your ticket, and I'll pick another one.**

When you and your parent/guardian have finished reading this entire document, please put your signatures below. Your signatures simply let me know that you have read my class rules and expectations and realize that there will be consequences for your (the student, obviously) actions if you make poor decisions.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____